

Virginia Department of Education Board Highlights



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Student Advisory Committee Sets Policy Goals

The Board of Education's newly appointed Student Advisory Committee has identified teacher quality, issues associated with students with learning disabilities, and the availability of technology as its top policy concerns. The twelve-member committee, comprised of eight high school students and four middle school students, held its first meeting on April 25 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Richmond. The committee adopted the following mission statement to serve as a guide as it advises the board on issues affecting students:

The Student Advisory Committee to the Board of Education will represent and serve the students of Virginia by acting as a liaison between students and the board, understanding and voicing the concerns and issues facing students, giving fresh perspective to the board members, and using our diversity as a collective voice to provide feasible solutions.

The following day, committee members appeared before the board to report on their goals and activities. Committee members told the board that they look forward to representing the views of Virginia students. "This is a great way for us to let the board know what students think," said Jonathan B. B. Cross of Fairfax County. Ryan M. Scofield of Loudoun County agreed. "I'm looking forward to working with other members of the committee to help the Board of Education improve the schools of Virginia," he said.

"We're really proud to have you," Board President Kirk T. Schroder told the committee. "We look forward to a great dialogue and learning about what is going on in our schools from the students' perspective."

The Student Advisory Committee is required to meet at least three times a year, with one meeting coinciding with a regularly scheduled board meeting. Under by-laws adopted last year by the board, the committee consists of one high school student from each of the Department of Education's eight administrative regions and four middle school students selected at-large. The president of the board or another designated board member presides over the committee, which also includes two board members appointed by the president.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for June 16 in Richmond at 10 a.m. at a location to be announced.

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Highlights from the Board of Education Meeting April 26, 2000

Consent Agenda

- Final review of recommendations concerning release of Literary Fund loans for placement on waiting list
- Final review of recommendations concerning applications for Literary Fund loans
- Final review of financial report of Literary Fund
- Consent to adopt proposed Remedial Education Regulations amendments recommended by the Governor's Office
- Authorization to conduct public hearings on the draft History and Social Science Standards of Learning Teacher Resource Guide
- First review of the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) to promulgate regulations governing the determining of critical teacher shortage areas for awarding the Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program (moved from regular agenda)
- First Review of the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) to amend the Regulations Governing the Employment of Professional Personnel (moved from regular agenda)

Resolutions and Recognitions

- Resolution of appreciation to members of the Revision Committee for the Standards of Learning for Health, Physical Education, and Driver's Education
- Resolution of recognition honoring Chase City Elementary School, Mecklenburg County, winner of the second annual Chase City School Award, Sponsored by the Fordham University Graduate School of Education and the Chase Manhattan Foundation of New York
- Resolutions of recognition for outstanding performance in the International Mathematics Modeling Contest sponsored by the Consortium for Mathematics and its Applications
- Recognition for the outstanding performance of the George Wythe High School (Richmond) Drama Team at the Southeastern Theater Conference Secondary School Play Festival
- Recognition of members of the Board of Education's inaugural Student Advisory Committee

Discussion and Action Items

ITEM	ACTION
Consideration of proposed amendments to the regulations establishing the Career Switcher Alternative Route to Licensure	The board withdrew the Nov. 30, 2000 regulations and approved the proposed revisions for continuation of the APA, including public comment.
Final review of revised Health Education Standards of Learning	The board approved the revised standards as amended on final review.
Final review of revised Physical Education Standards of Learning	The board approved the revised standards on final review.
Final review of revised Driver Education Standards of Learning	The board approved the revised standards on final review.
Final review of a request from Cumberland County for approval of an innovative program involving alternative staffing plan for library media services	The board approved the request on final review.

(more)

ITEM	ACTION
Report from the Board of Education's Student Advisory Committee	The board received the report.
Final review of an alternative for the Praxis I assessments for initial licensure	The board approved Alternative 2 on final review, setting a composite score without minimum scores on each test.
Informational report on Summer 2001 plans to conduct Career Switcher pilots	The board received the report.
Informational report on charter schools	The board received the report.
Resolution reconvening the Superintendent's Report Card Committee	The board approved the resolution.
Clarification of the vote taken by the board on March 22, 2001 on Item K: First review of a request for approval of an innovative program involving opening prior to Labor Day from the Virginia Beach City School Board	The board approved the request on final review.
First review of certification and license examinations for student-selected test for earning verified credit	The board waived first review and approved the amended list of certification and license examinations on final review.
Resolution on Leadership in Arts Instruction Awards	The board approved the resolution.

Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

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